

**Mental Health Planning Council
4/4/03 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

Rich Greb, Chair	X	Bill Jones	X
Libby Jones, Co-Chair	X	Phyllis Kennedy	X
Jimmie Arrington		Jeff McCloud	X
Mary Bethel	X	Dr. James Osberg	X
Dorothy O'Neil	X	Pat Prescott	
Rochelle Edwards		Chris Rakes	X
Dan Fox	X	Frank Read	X
Dr. Linner Ward Griffin		Osborne Shamberger	
Allyn Guffey (Kaye Holder)	X	Paula Snipes	
Patricia Harris		Mary Recca Todd	X
John Hayes	X	Carolyn Wiser	X
Ellen Holliman		Laura Yates	X
Bill Hussey		Guest: Dick Oliver	X
Diann Irwin	X	Guest: Chris Phillips	X
Guest: Stephanie Alexander	X	Staff: Amy Smiley	X
		Staff: Julie Seibert	X

The meeting was called to order by Rich Greb. The agenda for the day was reviewed and the 2/7/03 minutes were approved.

Chris Phillips, Chief of Advocacy and Customer Service
Orientation of this new section added to the Division

Chris shared with the Council his background and training in the field, the interview process he experienced and how his first two months have been with the Division. He reviewed the Advocacy and Customer Service teams and each of their functions. His section is made up of "Consumer Empowerment", "Customer Service and Consumer Rights" and "State Facility Advocacy". Chris shared what his vision is in terms of utilizing this new section to partner with various advisory councils in order to effectively advocate for consumers in the institutions and in the communities.

Dr. Jim Osberg, Team Leader of State Operated Services
Update on Hospital Downsizing

Jim reviewed the current status of the hospital downsizing initiative. He explained the state hospital target populations, special populations, services to be discontinued and services to be reduced. He also summarized the expansion planning process. Handouts were supplied to Council members that demonstrated the average daily census in state hospitals, the downsizing schedule of all hospitals, the target bed capacity for FY 2006, Person-Centered discharge plans, state monitoring of outcomes, FY 2002 actions and FY 2003 actions. Also the State's plan to fund community capacity expansion and trust fund allocations were shared. It is anticipated that the tentative new State hospital will have approximately 432 beds. More information will be shared as this process develops.

Amy Smiley and Julie Seibert- Division of MH/DD/SAS
Update of Division Reorganization

Julie and Amy handed out the final organization chart and the employee assignments throughout the entire Division.

Rich Greb, Chair
Discussion of Web Topics/Communication Bulletins on Division Home Page

The final draft communication bulletin entitled "Guidance to Governing Authorities in the Formation and Support of a Consumer and Family Advisory Committee" was distributed and discussed. The State Plan 2002 charges the Area Program with the responsibility of forming committees of consumers and family members, known as the Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFACs). This reform effort seeks to broaden the involvement of consumers and families as partners in ways that are durable, sustainable, and meaningful to the development of a comprehensive system of services and supports. Rich encouraged everyone to take some time to visit the Division website and read all of the communication bulletins that Dr. Visingardi (Division Director) puts out. They are very informative and help everyone to remain abreast of the implementation of mental health reform as it evolves.

Stephanie Alexander, Division Affairs
Review of Senate Bill 163

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacted Senate Bill 163 into Session Law 2002-164. It is stated in the law that the Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Department of Public Instruction, and other applicable agencies will submit a report on the method of identifying and tracking children placed outside of the family unit in group homes or therapeutic foster home settings. This report will be submitted to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division. Stephanie explained the implications of this new law on children with serious and emotional disturbance and also how it will affect the means in which facilities are monitored. She also gave everyone a copy of the draft rules for provider enrollment and suspension and revocation.

Dick Oliver, Team Leader-Community Policy Implementation & Management **Review of Local Business Plans**

Dick reviewed the status of all the Area Programs (AP) in terms of submitting their local business plans and how AP's are scoring. There are 15 Phase I AP's. These AP's are submitting waiver requests to do "something special", pilot projects, etc. Some AP's have a very strong plan. Others are having difficulty. Challenges that some AP's face are: (1) lack of understanding of target populations and (2) lack of a concerted effort to facilitate a communication planning process (i.e. Area Program only held a public forum meeting once). Five key subject areas that the Division's review teams are looking for in local business plans are: (1) congruence with the State Plan 2002/vision/values, (2) consumer involvement, (3) administrative best practice, (4) services/support best practice and (5) target populations transition. Dick received outstanding feedback from the Council and was asked to return later in the year to provide another update.

Individual Member Updates

Dan Fox announced that Vocational Rehabilitation had been awarded a grant with the Division of Medical Assistance called the "Medicaid Infrastructure Grant". This grant was designed to eliminate the disincentive to work. Anna Johnston is the grant coordinator. He will keep the Council posted as to the progress in this new effort.

Laura Yates shared many success stories happening at the Division of Prisons regarding programs to serve mentally ill adults. Everyone asked her to share more in our June meeting and bring outcomes (data). She stated she would be happy to.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next Mental Health Planning Council will be held **June 6, 2003**.